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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/700,162	11/03/2003	Maciej Bedkowski	01-398	3805
719	7590	06/29/2005	EXAMINER	
CATERPILLAR INC. 100 N.E. ADAMS STREET PATENT DEPT. PEORIA, IL 616296490			MCMAHON, MARGUERITE J	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3747	

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

JP

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/700,162	BEDKOWSKI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Marguerite J. McMahon	3747	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/22/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-4, 9-11, and 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Burgess (6,557,536). Note a blow by gas separation system for an internal combustion engine comprising a blowby gas transfer passage 94, 96, 97, 98, 100 located externally of the engine and adapted to collect blowby gases from the engine, the blowby gas transfer passage including a conduit 98 operably connected on a first end to the engine, condensing media 122, 118 in the conduit adapted to condense oil from the blowby gases, and a collection unit 20 in fluid communication with the conduit and adapted to receive the blowby gases from the conduit and separate condensed oil from the blowby gases, an oil recirculation line 104 in fluid communication with the collection unit and adapted to return the separated condensed oil to the engine, a valve 106 adapted to prevent blowby gases from exiting the engine through the oil recirculation line to the reservoir 92 for storing the separated condensed oil, the blowby gas transfer passage being disposed with respect to the collection unit

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such that condensed oil in the transfer tube will pass under gravity into the collection unit, the collection unit including condensing media 82, 74, and a gas recirculation line for recirculating separated gases from the collection unit to an engine air intake hose 110.

Claim 23 is alternatively rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mannokina, Jr. (4,136,650). Note a condensing media 28 in the transfer passage, the transfer passage comprising 20, 22, 26, 24, 32, and 33, collection unit 24, and reservoir 337.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-8, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker, Jr. (5,479,907). Walker, Jr. shows everything except the condensing media comprising a helical coil or wire mesh, and the collection unit having a top and a base, the oil recirculation line being adjacent a base of the housing and the gas recirculation line being intermediate the base and the top of the housing.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art to substitute a helical coil or wire mesh as the condensing media, since these are alternative equivalents, known for the same purpose as the filter and baffle system shown in the reference. In addition, it would have been an obvious matter of design choice to

substitute a housing having a base and a top for the cylindrical housing shown in the reference, since the device would function in the same way in either case, and the oil and gas outlets are shown in the same locations as they would be if the housing were configured to have a top and a base.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-23 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

With respect to the alternative rejection of newly added claim 23, Applicant's arguments filed 4/22/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. It is noted that the language has not overcome the original rejection to Manookian, Jr. '650 because the Manookian, Jr reference shows condensing media in the transfer passage, which includes 20, 22, 26, collection unit 24, 32, and 33. Since the collection unit is a part of the transfer passage, the condensing media is in face located in the transfer passage, and as such is in communication with the transfer passage. There is no claim language to indicate that the collection unit must not be included as part of the transfer passage. The transfer passage refers to the passage, which transfers the blowby gas from the crankcase to the intake manifold. The specification is consistent with this interpretation of the term transfer passage, referring to it as a passage located externally of the engine and adapted to collect blowby gasses from the engine (see page 2, lines 16-17).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marguerite J. McMahon whose telephone number is 703-308-1956. The examiner can normally be reached on flex.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yuen Henry can be reached on 703-308-1946. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


MARGUERITE MCMAHON
PRIMARY EXAMINER